

Chapter 2 - Alternatives  
Coachella Valley California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment

<b>Table 2-4: Habitat Conservation Objectives</b>		
<b>Community Type</b>	<b>Conservation Objectives</b>	<b>Sensitive Species</b>
<p><b>Sand Dunes and Sand Fields</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Active Desert Dunes</li> <li>- Active Desert Sand Fields</li> <li>- Active Shielded Desert Dunes</li> <li>- Ephemeral Desert Sand Fields</li> <li>- Stabilized and Partially Stabilized Desert Sand Fields</li> <li>- Stabilized and Partially Stabilized Desert Dunes</li> <li>- Stabilized Shielded Desert Sand Fields</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Conserve at least 99% of extant sand dunes and sand fields</li> <li>▶ Avoid stabilization of sand dunes due to adjacent development and spread of non-native species</li> <li>▶ Maintain, and enhance where feasible, aeolian (wind blown) and fluvial (water borne) sand transport systems</li> <li>▶ Minimize sand compaction to protect Jerusalem cricket and giant sand treader habitat and to minimize crushing of fringe-toed lizards</li> <li>▶ Minimize roads within flat-tailed horned lizard habitat which are prone to crushing by vehicles</li> <li>▶ Avoid crushing of burrows, especially for burrowing owl, giant sand treader cricket, Jerusalem cricket and Round-tailed ground squirrel</li> <li>▶ Avoid disturbance and compaction of sandy habitats associated with CV milk-vetch and avoid crushing of CV milk-vetch plants</li> <li>▶ Reduce/control spread of non-native plants like Russian thistle and Saharan mustard; and exotic animals such as non-native ants and brown-headed cowbirds.</li> <li>▶ Protect <i>Tiquilia palmeri</i> sites, host plant for CV grasshopper</li> <li>▶ Minimize loss of native vegetation, minimize habitat fragmentation and maintain habitat patch connectivity</li> <li>▶ Prohibit uncontrolled household pets on public lands to minimize predation of reptiles, small mammals and birds</li> </ul>	<p>Flat-tailed horned lizard Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard Le Conte's thrasher Coachella giant sand treader cricket Coachella Valley Jerusalem cricket Coachella Valley milk-vetch Coachella Valley round-tailed ground squirrel Palm Springs pocket mouse burrowing owl Coachella Valley grasshopper Casey's June beetle</p>

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<p><b>Desert Scrub Communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Blackbrush Scrub</li> <li>- Mojave Mixed Steppe</li> <li>- Mojave Mixed Woody Scrub</li> <li>- Riversidean Sage Scrub</li> <li>- Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub</li> <li>- Sonoran Mixed Woody and Succulent Scrub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Conserve at least 99% of extant desert scrub communities</li> <li>▶ Minimize habitat loss and fragmentation in bighorn sheep essential habitat.</li> <li>▶ Suppress fire in Sonoran scrub communities to maintain bighorn sheep and desert tortoise habitat</li> <li>▶ Exclude bighorn sheep from urban areas /provide alternative water sources</li> <li>▶ Prohibit artificial illumination of mountain slopes on public lands</li> <li>▶ Prohibit use of pesticides harmful to wildlife</li> <li>▶ Maintain, and enhance where feasible, aeolian (wind blown) and fluvial (water borne) sand transport systems</li> <li>▶ Avoid disturbance and compaction of sandy habitats associated with giant sandtrader cricket, CV milk-vetch</li> <li>▶ Avoid crushing of sensitive plant and animal species</li> <li>▶ Protect <i>Tiquilia palmeri</i> sites, host plant for CV grasshopper</li> <li>▶ Avoid disturbance to existing /potential Casey's June beetle habitat</li> <li>▶ Reduce/control spread of non-native plants like Russian thistle, Saharan mustard, and to the extent feasible, exotic annual grasses and forbs to protect desert tortoise forage species.</li> <li>▶ Reduce/control spread of exotic animals such as non-native ants and brown-headed cowbirds.</li> <li>▶ Avoid overgrazing, soil compaction and erosion caused by domestic animals to protect desert tortoise forage species</li> <li>▶ Minimize poaching, crushing and illegal collection of desert tortoise</li> <li>▶ Avoid crushing of burrows, especially for burrowing owl, sand trader cricket, desert tortoise, and Round-tailed ground squirrel</li> <li>▶ Rehabilitate disturbed areas with native vegetation only</li> <li>▶ Minimize loss of native vegetation, minimize habitat fragmentation and maintain habitat patch connectivity</li> <li>▶ Prohibit uncontrolled household pets on public lands to minimize predation of reptiles, small mammals and birds</li> </ul>	<p>Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Coachella Valley round-tailed ground squirrel Palm Springs pocket mouse desert tortoise Flat-tailed horned lizard Le Conte's thrasher burrowing owl Coachella giant sandtrader cricket Coachella Valley grasshopper Casey's June beetle Coachella Valley milk-vetch triple-ribbed milk-vetch Mecca aster Orocopia sage</p>

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<b>Community Type</b>	<b>Conservation Objectives</b>	<b>Sensitive Species</b>
<p><b>Chaparral Communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chamise Chaparral</li> <li>- Interior Live Oak Chaparral</li> <li>- Mixed Montane Chaparral</li> <li>- Northern Mixed Chaparral</li> <li>- Redshank Chaparral</li> <li>- Scrub Oak Chaparral</li> <li>- Semi-Desert Chaparral</li> <li>- Upper Sonoran Manzanita Chaparral</li> <li>- Upper Sonoran Mixed Chaparral</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Conserve at least 99% of extant chaparral communities</li> <li>▶ Manage fire to avoid senescence of vegetation due to fire suppression</li> <li>▶ Minimize habitat loss and fragmentation in bighorn sheep essential habitat</li> <li>▶ Exclude bighorn sheep from urban areas/ provide alternative water sources</li> <li>▶ Avoid artificial illumination of mountain slopes on public land</li> <li>▶ Prohibit use of pesticides harmful to wildlife</li> <li>▶ Avoid trampling of sensitive plant species</li> <li>▶ Avoid disturbance to endemic species</li> <li>▶ Reduce/control spread of non-native plants like Russian thistle, Saharan mustard, and to the extent feasible, exotic annual grasses and forbs to protect desert tortoise forage species</li> <li>▶ Reduce/control spread of exotic animals such as non-native ants and brown-headed cowbirds.</li> <li>▶ Avoid overgrazing by domestic animals, soil compaction and erosion to protect desert tortoise forage species</li> <li>▶ Avoid crushing of desert tortoise burrows</li> <li>▶ Minimize poaching, crushing and illegal collection of desert tortoise</li> <li>▶ Rehabilitate disturbed areas with native vegetation only</li> <li>▶ Maintain habitat patch connectivity</li> <li>▶ Prohibit uncontrolled household pets on public lands to minimize predation of reptiles, small mammals and birds</li> </ul>	<p>Peninsular bighorn sheep gray vireo triple-ribbed milk-vetch desert tortoise Pratt's dark aurora blue butterfly</p>

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<p><b>Desert Alkali Scrub Communities</b>                      - Desert Saltbush Scrub                      - Desert Sink Scrub</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Conserve at least 99% of extant desert alkali scrub communities</li> <li>▶ Minimize trampling of soils to protect Linanthus populations</li> <li>▶ Avoid noise, dust and destruction of vegetation during thrasher nesting season, December through June on public land</li> <li>▶ Minimize roads within flat-tailed horned lizard habitat to reduce probability of lizards being run over by vehicles</li> <li>▶ Avoid trampling of sensitive plant and animal species</li> <li>▶ Control spread of non-native plants like Russian thistle, Saharan mustard, and to the extent feasible, exotic annual grasses and forbs.</li> <li>▶ Reduce/control spread of exotic animals such as non-native ants and brown-headed cowbirds.</li> <li>▶ Avoid overgrazing by domestic animals, soil compaction and erosion to protect desert tortoise forage</li> <li>▶ Avoid disturbance to endemic species</li> <li>▶ Avoid crushing of burrows</li> <li>▶ Rehabilitate disturbed areas with native vegetation only</li> <li>▶ Minimize loss of native vegetation, minimize habitat fragmentation and maintain habitat patch connectivity</li> <li>▶ Prohibit uncontrolled household pets on public lands to minimize predation of reptiles, small mammals and birds</li> </ul>	<p>Flat-tailed horned lizard                      Le Conte's thrasher                      Crissal thrasher                      Coachella Valley Grasshopper                      Migratory riparian birds</p>

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Community Type	Conservation Objectives	Sensitive Species
<p><b>Marsh Communities</b> - Cismontane Alkali Marsh - Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Conserve at least 99% of extant marsh communities</li> <li>▶ Reduce/control spread of non-native plants like tamarisk, Russian thistle and Saharan mustard</li> <li>▶ Reduce/control spread of exotic animals such as non-native ants and brown-headed cowbirds, amphibians such as bullfrogs and fish such as tilapia and crayfish.</li> <li>▶ To the extent activities are under BLM authority, maintain water levels, water quality and proper functioning condition of seeps, springs, marshes and wetlands</li> <li>▶ Minimize disturbance to sensitive species, especially during nesting season</li> <li>▶ Rehabilitate disturbed areas with native vegetation only</li> <li>▶ Minimize loss of native vegetation, minimize habitat fragmentation and maintain habitat patch connectivity</li> <li>▶ Prohibit uncontrolled household pets on public lands to minimize predation of reptiles, small mammals and birds</li> </ul>	<p>Yuma Clapper rail California black rail desert pupfish</p>

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Community Type	Conservation Objectives	Sensitive Species
<p><b>Dry Wash Woodland and Mesquite Communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Desert Dry Wash Woodland</li> <li>- Mesquite Bosque</li> <li>- Mesquite Hummocks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Conserve at least 99% of extant dry wash woodland and mesquite communities</li> <li>▶ Maintain, and enhance where feasible, aeolian (wind blown) and fluvial (water borne) sand transport systems</li> <li>▶ Avoid disturbance of sandy habitats associated with Linanthus (low benches along washes) CV milk-vetch, and Mecca aster</li> <li>▶ Avoid crushing of sensitive plants</li> <li>▶ Avoid crushing of burrows for desert tortoise and Round-tailed ground squirrels</li> <li>▶ Reduce/control spread of non-native plants like Russian thistle, Saharan mustard, arundo, tamarisk, fountain grass, and if feasible, exotic annual grasses and forbs to protect desert tortoise forage</li> <li>▶ Reduce/control spread of exotic animals such as non-native ants and brown-headed cowbirds.</li> <li>▶ Avoid overgrazing by domestic animals, soil compaction and erosion to protect desert tortoise forage</li> <li>▶ Minimize poaching, crushing and illegal collection of desert tortoise</li> <li>▶ Avoid noise, dust and destruction of vegetation during thrasher nesting season, December through June</li> <li>▶ Suppress fire in Sonoran scrub communities</li> <li>▶ Exclude sheep from urban areas/provide alternative water sources</li> <li>▶ Prohibit use of pesticides harmful to wildlife</li> <li>▶ Rehabilitate disturbed areas with native vegetation only</li> <li>▶ Minimize loss of native vegetation, minimize habitat fragmentation and maintain habitat patch connectivity</li> <li>▶ Prohibit uncontrolled household pets on public lands to minimize predation of reptiles, small mammals and birds</li> </ul>	<p>Peninsular bighorn sheep desert tortoise Coachella Valley round-tailed ground squirrel Palm Springs pocket mouse Le Conte's thrasher Crissal thrasher migratory riparian birds Coachella Valley grasshopper Coachella Valley milk-vetch Little San Bdo Mtns Linanthus triple-ribbed milk-vetch Mecca aster Orocopia sage</p>

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<b>Community Type</b>	<b>Conservation Objectives</b>	<b>Sensitive Species</b>
<p><b>Riparian Communities</b>                      - Arrowweed Scrub                      - Desert Fan Palm Oasis Woodland                      - Sonoran Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forest                      - Southern Arroyo Willow Riparian Forest                      - Southern Sycamore-Alder Riparian Woodland                      -Tamarisk Scrub (Non-Native)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Conserve at least 99% of extant native riparian communities</li> <li>▶ Reduce/control spread of non-native plants like tamarisk, arundo, fountain grass, Russian thistle, Saharan mustard, and to the extent feasible, exotic grasses and forbs to protect desert tortoise forage</li> <li>▶ Reduce/control spread of exotic animals such as non-native ants and brown-headed cowbirds, amphibians such as bullfrogs and fish such as tilapia and crayfish.</li> <li>▶ To the legal extent feasible, avoid degradation of water quality with infusion of nitrates/nitrites</li> <li>▶ Avoid development and alteration of streamside gravel bars and terraces to protect arroyo toad habitat</li> <li>▶ Maintain water levels for salamanders to the legal extent feasible.</li> <li>▶ Avoid overgrazing by domestic animals, soil compaction and erosion to protect desert tortoise forage</li> <li>▶ Avoid crushing of desert tortoise burrows</li> <li>▶ Minimize poaching, crushing and illegal collection of desert tortoise</li> <li>▶ Avoid disturbance to endemic species</li> <li>▶ Avoid crushing of burrows</li> <li>▶ Avoid noise, dust and destruction of vegetation during thrasher nesting season, December through June</li> <li>▶ Avoid trampling of sensitive plant species</li> <li>▶ Exclude sheep from urban areas/provide alternative water sources</li> <li>▶ Prohibit use of pesticides harmful to wildlife</li> <li>▶ Rehabilitate disturbed areas with native vegetation only</li> <li>▶ Minimize loss of native vegetation, minimize habitat fragmentation and maintain habitat patch connectivity</li> <li>▶ Prohibit uncontrolled household pets on public lands to minimize predation of reptiles, small mammals and birds</li> </ul>	<p>desert pupfish                      desert slender salamander                      arroyo southwestern toad                      desert tortoise                      Least Bell's vireo                      yellow warbler                      yellow-breasted chat                      southwestern willow flycatcher                      summer tanager                      crissal thrasher                      migratory riparian birds                      triple-ribbed milk-vetch                      southern yellow bat                      Peninsular bighorn sheep</p>

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Community Type	Conservation Objectives	Sensitive Species
<p><b>Woodland and Forest Communities</b>                      - Mojavean Pinyon and Juniper Woodland                      - Peninsular Juniper Woodland and Scrub</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Conserve at least 99% of extant woodland and forest communities</li> <li>▶ Manage fire to avoid senescence of the vegetation due to fire suppression</li> <li>▶ Exclude bighorn sheep from urban areas and provide alternative water sources</li> <li>▶ Avoid artificial illumination of mountain slopes</li> <li>▶ Reduce/control spread of non-native plants like tamarisk, arundo, fountain grass, Russian thistle, Saharan mustard, and if feasible, exotic annual grasses and forbs to protect desert tortoise forage</li> <li>▶ Reduce/control spread of exotic animals such as non-native ants and brown-headed cowbirds.</li> <li>▶ Avoid overgrazing by domestic animals, soil compaction and erosion to protect desert tortoise forage</li> <li>▶ Avoid crushing of desert tortoise burrows</li> <li>▶ Minimize poaching, crushing and illegal collection of desert tortoise</li> <li>▶ Prohibit use of pesticides harmful to wildlife</li> <li>▶ Rehabilitate disturbed areas with native vegetation only</li> <li>▶ Minimize loss of native vegetation, minimize habitat fragmentation and maintain habitat patch connectivity</li> <li>▶ Prohibit uncontrolled household pets on public lands to minimize predation of reptiles, small mammals and birds</li> </ul>	<p>Peninsular bighorn sheep                      gray vireo                      triple-ribbed milk-vetch                      desert tortoise                      Pratt's aurora blue butterfly</p>